

Last year, I introduced a similar resolution. Once again, it passed by unanimous consent and was noncontroversial. Over 60 events were held in cities across the country. It was used as an educational tool for teachers and a day for parents to take their children to the zoo.

This year the resolution was offered for a third time. It was thought it would pass quickly and without controversy. However, this was not the case. It was held up by an unknown Senator. We could not clear the hold, so we were unable to get unanimous consent to pass the resolution.

Now why is this important? The fact is that 90 events were scheduled in 28 States. Twenty events took place in California to commemorate the day. In my city of San Francisco, the Golden Gate National Recreation Area and the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary led nature hikes in search of the endangered tidewater goby and explained to children what they can do to save them. The Antelope Valley Conservancy hosted its third annual Endangered Species Day Conference that brought together Federal, State, and local leaders to discuss their recovery efforts. Similarly, the San Diego Zoo held public lectures on the affects that global climate change will have on endangered species.

These events still went on as planned. Teachers continued to educate their students about what we need to do as a Nation and at the local level to protect our planet and endangered species.

We know that global climate change, habitat destruction, and the illegal trade and hunting of endangered species carry serious consequences for their future survival. These threats are ongoing. More effective wildlife management programs are needed like those to save the California condor, least Bell's vireo songbird and the California grey whale.

I am disappointed that this non-controversial resolution was prevented from passing. The goals of Endangered Species Day are simple and uncontroversial: to build awareness about the threats facing our planet's species. If we don't recognize these threats and act now to address them, our planet's endangered species may soon become our planet's extinct species. I am hopeful that all those who took part in last Friday's events came away knowing that more work needs to be done to protect our planet.

CONGRATULATING DAVID COOK

Mrs. McCASKILL. Mr. President, I want to congratulate a Missourian who has accomplished something truly remarkable. We have known our share of champions in Missouri, like the 2006 St. Louis Cardinals and the Big 12 North winning University of Missouri football team. We have also had our share of great entertainers, like Josephine Baker, Scott Joplin, and Sheryl Crow.

But it is very rare that we have someone who is both. Last night, David Cook, a native of Blue Springs, MO, and a graduate of Central Missouri State University, achieved that rare combination when he was crowned winner of "American Idol."

David's victory was remarkable even by "American Idol's" standards. The show has become one of the greatest competitions the country has ever witnessed. It is ubiquitous. It is practically unavoidable. And with the eyes of the whole country watching, David Cook won "American Idol" by the incredible margin of 12 million votes out of a record 97.5 million votes cast. His performances, along with those of David Archuleta, the other worthy finalist, drew in more viewers than watched the season finale last year.

It is telling of the graciousness and humility of this superbly talented young man that David didn't even intend to try out for the show. The only reason he was at the audition was to support his brother. But while entering the contest may have been accidental, it is no accident that the country voted him the next "American Idol." His easy confidence and visible passion (not to mention that voice), made him the clear choice. He was also one of the nicest contestants ever to appear on the show—even notoriously grumpy Simon Cowell said so.

So I want to extend my heartfelt congratulations to Missouri's next superstar, David Cook. I wish you the best of luck in what I am sure will be a stellar career.

TRIBUTE TO JAMES S. HOLT

Mr. CRAIG. Mr. President, I pay tribute to Dr. James S. Holt, who passed away on April 28, 2008.

Dr. Holt was known to many Members of this Senate because of the outstanding contributions he made to developing sound Federal public policy related to agriculture, immigration, and employment. It was through his involvement in these issues before Congress that I got to know Jim and gained a tremendous respect for his wealth of knowledge and integrity—and especially his unwavering commitment to finding policy solutions that were correct, even if that meant they were also uncomfortable or difficult.

Jim Holt received his Ph.D. in agricultural economics from the Pennsylvania State University in 1965, and then served 16 years on the Penn State faculty as a professor of agricultural economics and farm management. From 1978 until the present, Dr. Holt headed his own consulting firm, as well as serving as senior economist to a Washington, DC, law firm, where his responsibilities included research, policy analysis, and government relations in matters related to labor, agriculture, immigration and animal welfare.

Dr. Holt authored more than 70 publications and served agricultural clients

in more than 30 States. Jim was a recognized expert with unique knowledge of the H-2A program and served as a consultant to national organizations such as the National Council of Agricultural Employers and the Agriculture Coalition for Immigration Reform during his involvement in the major immigration and H-2A reform efforts in Congress during the past 30 years.

I first became aware of Jim's expertise when he helped farmers in my own State of Idaho to establish the Snake River Farmers Association an organization that helps obtain legally authorized workers through the H-2A temporary and seasonal foreign agricultural worker program. Earlier this year in Idaho, at a meeting of the association, Jim and I teamed up again to address the grave labor situation facing Idaho farmers.

I had the pleasure of working with Jim in the development of the AgJOBS legislation that I coauthored with Senators Feinstein and Kennedy. As my colleagues know, this bill has enjoyed broad bipartisan support and even passed the Senate in 2006. Jim brought his unique knowledge to the process of developing this historic legislation that brought together farm worker advocates and growers in an effort to provide a legal and stable agricultural workforce. During the past decade, Dr. Holt testified numerous times in both Chambers of Congress before the Committees on Agriculture, Judiciary, and Education and Labor in an effort to educate members on the importance of reforming our farm labor system and the severe economic consequences if we fail to do so. When we succeed in enacting the AgJOBS legislation and I am convinced that will ultimately happen—it will be in no small part because of the immeasurable effort Dr. Holt devoted to that cause over the past decade.

On behalf of the policymakers who have worked with Jim Holt and benefited from his wise counsel over the years, I would like to express profound regret at his passing. He will be sorely missed. Let me extend my deepest sympathies to Jim's many friends and colleagues, and to the family he leaves behind.

HONORING ABIGAIL TAYLOR

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Mr. President, last fall I came before the Senate to ask my colleagues to join me in passing the Virginia Graeme Baker Pool and Spa Safety Act on behalf of an amazing little girl, Abigail Taylor, of Edina MN.

And in December of 2007, with Abigail as our inspiration, Congress answered the call. We not only passed the bill, but working with the Taylor family and child safety experts, we included provisions in the legislation to create tough new safety standards that require all existing public pools with single drains to install the latest drain safety technology. On December 19,

2007, the President signed the Pool and Spa Safety Act into law.

One of the most touching moments in my time in the Senate was that day in December when I was able to call Scott Taylor from the Senate cloakroom to let him know that the pool safety bill had passed. Abbey may have been a small girl, but there is no doubt she had a super-sized impact on our world.

From the beginning, Abbey said she wanted her story told so that it would make a difference. And it did. Although Abbey is no longer with us, she will always live on through this important new law that will protect other children so they do not have to suffer what she did. I am certain that this new law would not have passed except for the inspiring courage of Abbey Taylor and her family. It was their gift to all the children of America.

The city of Edina, MN, will designate May 24, 2008, as Abigail Taylor Day the day Abigail would have celebrated her seventh birthday.

On May 24, I ask that we join in honoring Abbey Taylor, “Amazing Abigail” as we called her, and keep the entire Taylor family—Scott, Katey, Grace, Christina, and Audrey—in our thoughts. We owe them all a debt of gratitude for their courage and their pursuit of a safer America for all our children.

ENHANCING SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING, AND MATHEMATICS ACT OF 2008

Mr. OBAMA. Mr. President, last year, I was proud to cosponsor America COMPETES, legislation which addressed many issues essential to maintaining America's competitive leadership in an increasing competitive and technological global marketplace. I was heartened by the bipartisan support for that effort. Today, I rise to urge my colleagues to join me and my friend from Indiana, Mr. LUGAR, in extending that effort, by supporting legislation to enhance education efforts in science, technology, engineering and mathematics—the fields known as STEM.

Strengthening STEM education is important not only to foster the innovation needed to ensure our nation's future prosperity, but also so that every citizen can benefit from our democracy's ever-increasing pace of technological and scientific advance. Federal agencies currently administer more than a hundred different STEM education programs, with over \$3,000,000,000 spent annually. Yet there is little coherence among these efforts. There is a clear need for increased coordination of STEM education among states, and between the efforts of federal agencies and of state and local educators.

The intent of our legislation, the Enhancing Science, Technology, Engineering, and Technology Act of 2008, is to bring coherence and coordination to these efforts, for the benefit of stu-

dents, science, and society. The legislation establishes a STEM Education Committee within the President's Office of Science and Technology Policy to coordinate the initiatives of the many Federal agencies engaged in STEM education, and to avoid unnecessary duplication among these efforts. It consolidates existing STEM education initiatives within the Department of Education under the direction of an Office of STEM Education. It authorizes grant funding for States which choose to work together to develop rigorous common STEM education standards with more meaningful and effective ways of measuring student learning. And it facilitates sharing of information about effective educational practices and innovations so that they become widely available to STEM teachers and educators. Throughout this legislation, there is emphasis on developing strategies to increase the participation of Americans from underrepresented populations in our national science and engineering enterprise, bringing new perspectives for the benefit of all.

All of these efforts together will strengthen our efforts to help students learn, and teachers teach, not just to train the scientists and engineers of the future, but to empower all students to become more fluent in science and technology, and more capable in math.

I am pleased that Mr. LUGAR has joined in this effort, as have Mr. SANDERS and Mr. BROWN. In the House, Mr. HONDA has introduced companion legislation, joined by a bipartisan group totaling 40. I urge my colleagues to join us in this effort.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

CONGRATULATING KATELYN BOWLES AND RILEY MILLER

• Mr. BUNNING. Mr. President, today I congratulate Ms. Katelyn Bowles and Ms. Riley Miller on receiving the Prudential Spirit of Community Award. Sponsored by Prudential Financial and the National Association of Secondary School Principals, the Prudential Spirit of Community Award recognizes middle and high school students who perform outstanding community service at the local, State and national level. Each year, two students are chosen as State honorees from each of the 50 States, and the District of Columbia.

Ms. Bowles, a senior at Montgomery County High School in Mount Sterling, KY, has been recognized as one of the Commonwealth top youth volunteers. She spearheaded a campaign to renovate the Mount Sterling C&O Train Depot, an integral part of the community tradition. By initiating a business plan between Future Business Leaders of America members and local government agencies, Ms. Bowles successfully secured \$200,000 in grants for the project, including \$153,000 from the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet. Ad-

ditionally, she managed to recruit fellow high school students to help with much of the renovation, scheduled to be completed next year.

In addition to being chosen as a State honoree, Ms. Miller, an eighth grader at Drakes Creek Middle School in Bowling Green, KY, has been selected as one of America's top 10 youth volunteers. She is recognized for her outstanding efforts in raising \$50,000 for childhood cancer research over the past 3 years. Having lost two younger brothers to leukemia, raising money for cancer research is a particularly important mission for Ms. Miller. Last year alone, Ms. Miller managed 29 lemonade stands with over 200 volunteers across Bowling Green, raising \$19,000. This incredible feat demonstrates her exceptional dedication, organizational skill, and enormous capacity for leadership.

Ms. Bowles and Ms. Miller have proven themselves to be exemplary students and volunteers, deserving of the Prudential Spirit of Community Award. They are an inspiration to the citizens of Kentucky and to student leaders and community volunteers everywhere. I look forward to seeing all that they will accomplish in the future.●

RECOGNIZING L. ROBERT KIMBALL

• Mr. CASEY. Mr. President, I would like to take a few moments to recognize the contributions of a community leader from my home State of Pennsylvania, Mr. L. Robert Kimball. Bob Kimball's name has become synonymous with high-quality work that clients have come to expect from the architecture, engineering, technology, and consulting firm that he founded 55 years ago in his home town of Ebensburg, PA.

The firm's professional services are well known both in Cambria County and among the public and private marketplaces it serves. Far less recognized are the contributions that Bob makes to his community.

In addition to his involvement on the boards of various civic, higher education, and professional organizations, his support extends to the fine and performing arts, education, athletics, youth organizations, community economic development initiatives, and health and human service agencies. His generosity is not limited to monetary contributions and sponsorships. He also encourages active participation by his staff in community activities. Bob wants to make sure that his firm never forgets its small-town foundation.

Under his leadership as founder, Bob places a high priority on treating clients, staff, and the community with consideration, appreciation, and fairness. These core values are among the key components of the firm's success.

Bob Kimball has enjoyed a successful career and has continuously shared that success, experience, and guidance with the community in Cambria County. He has distinguished himself as a